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Patterson Paves the Way for Prescription Drug Plan

February 10, 2003 – Senator Bruce Patterson (R – Canton; 7th District) introduced a bill allowing Michigan to create a multi-state consortium to purchase drugs at cost and then pass along the savings to seniors.

“I am grateful to hear the Democrats are joining me in supporting a multi-state consortium prescription drug plan,” Patterson said. “They are a welcomed addition to the table, and I look forward to a bipartisan effort towards a healthier Michigan.”

Senate Bill 75, which was introduced by Senator Patterson on January 28, 2003, allows for states to band together to purchase drugs from pharmaceutical manufacturers or wholesale distributors at bulk prices in order to lower costs for seniors. It calls for a system to be established to distribute products and services to qualifying seniors. Each participating state or member of the pharmaceutical purchasing program shall provide the products and services at its actual cost plus any administration costs of the program. The administrative costs would not exceed 3% of the actual cost of the medication.

Under the legislation, qualifying seniors must be fifty years or older and have an income at or below the federal poverty line.

“Seniors have come to me with their concerns and I am pleased to be able to offer this bill as a step in the right direction towards lowering the cost of prescription drugs. In this difficult economy, we need to be creative to help our constituents,” Patterson said. “With this legislation, state government can do something to get the job done.”

“Prescription drug costs appear to be excessively high and are unaffordable for many of our seniors,” Patterson said. “This piece of legislation will alleviate some of the burden our seniors continually face when purchasing their prescriptions.”

Patterson is the Vice Chair of the Health Policy committee. As Senator of the 7th District, Patterson represents the City of Northville, Northville Township, City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Van Buren Township, Belleville, Sumpter Township, Huron Township, Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Woodhaven, Trenton, Grosse Isle Township, Gibraltar and Rockwood.

